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A SONNET TO WHITTIER.

It may not be generally known that of the five Bryant brothers, all except William Cullen, the poet, emigrated from Cummington, Mass., to Illinois nearly sixty years ago. The youngest brother, John H. Bryant, still lives in the enjoyment of a serene and honored old age, in Princeton, Illinois, where the editor of the *ADVOCATE* was a pastor five years, 1870-75. William Cullen is usually spoken of as the poet, but John H. is also a poet of no mean ability. A sonnet to Whittier from his pen just been sent by a friend to the *Boston Commonwealth*. Though its author is eighty-two years old, its vigor suggests rare powers in their maturity.

WHITTIER.

O venerable man! before whose sight,
For fourscore years has swept the tide of things,
The rise and fall of Empires, States and Kings,
And Man's great progress in the path of right.
Friend of the bondman, when his friends were few;
Our hearts were thrilled by thee in days gone by,
With glorious songs for truth and liberty,
That rang like trumpet peals our country through,
Yet not for these alone, nor length of days,
The blessings of mankind are with thee now;
The halo of a life of goodness plays
With tender radiance round thine honored brow.
The broken fetters of the ransomed slave
Shall emblems be to deck thy sacred grave.

PROVIDENCE PEACE MEETINGS.

A very interesting meeting at Brown University, Providence, R. I., presided over by President E. Benjamin Andrews and addressed by William Jones, formerly Secretary of the London Peace Society, was held Dec. 5. It was attended by professors and students of the University and many citizens. Dr. Andrews spoke briefly of international law as modified by the growing practice of arbitration as one of the most interesting subjects. The science of war is paralleled by a science of law, applied to those disputes which were wont to result in war.

Among the various movements in human thought, if there are some that are more striking, none is more interesting than international arbitration. While the science of warfare is making progress for obvious reasons, there is yet another set of influences at work more quietly. He referred to that department of international law known as international arbitration, which might be called a system of arbitration by which nations bound themselves together to see if they could not settle their difficulties without going to war.

The Providence *Journal* reports William Jones' address as follows:

He proved to be an easy and fluent speaker, carrying his audience on pinions of imagination from one quarter of the globe to another, picturing the horrors of war graphically and inferring the lesson and the blessings of peace most touchingly from contrast. He said that he and his wife had travelled nearly around the world in the interest of the cause. The effect reached in Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand had been already seen in the formation of peace unions. There had also been unceasing efforts to interest the rulers of nations and public men generally, the publishing of whose opinions had reached a wide circle of readers. Coming northward to

China and Japan, the speaker's work had chiefly consisted in interviewing rulers, some of the interviews being very interesting. He had talked with the great Viceroy of China, Li Hung Chang, for an hour and a half. The subjects introduced by himself had been simply international arbitration and the opium trade, but Li Hung Chang introduced other topics, and among them the treatment of his fellow subjects in America. Mr. Jones counselled a little patience and told the Viceroy that it was a labor question which lay at the root of the Mongolian opposition in this country. Li Hung Chang replied: "You counsel patience; but how about China, if she were in the wrong, would America wait?" The Viceroy made an important statement of admission to the effect that if the international peace compact talked of became permanent, China would join in it. Li Hung Chang expressed the highest admiration for Gen. Grant. Calling for his writing materials, the Viceroy affixed his signature to a document presented by Mr. Jones, which signified that he was in sympathy with the principles of international arbitration. These things were interesting as showing the feeling among intelligent outsiders. A similar reception had been accorded the speaker by Count Okuma of Japan, the official who was later attacked by an assassin. Count Okuma said: "We, in Japan, have got on well without soldiers and now should get along, were it not for the interference of foreign Powers."

The speaker then reviewed the outlook on the continent of Europe owing to excessive militarism. The six or seven millions of peasants in France were peaceful enough of themselves, but the fiery journalists of Paris were constantly inflaming them. Germany, on the other hand, is more or less demonstrative. Bismarck, as he seemed to the speaker, was really desirous of keeping peace, although his methods might be questionable. When the septennate bill was pending, Bismarck had said: "Another war with France is coming, whether in ten days or in ten years, I know not, compared with which, the last war, terrible as it was, will be as child's play." No discovery in the field of science was so eagerly seized upon now as some new explosive or death-dealing gun. Not less than 500,000 people, directly and indirectly, perished as the result of the Franco-Prussian war. If this was child's play, with the increased deadliness of modern weapons, God forbid another war. Taxing the budgets of France caused Germany to tax hers. That was taken up by Russia, Italy and Austria, leaving them relatively no stronger than they were before, embarrassing the nations, and ere long causing hopeless bankruptcy. In European cities, beggars abounded in every block. He had been three months in the United States, had not experienced this condition of things, and had not seen a soldier. Militarism and poverty go hand in hand.

Mr. Jones also addressed a large audience Dec. 6, at the Friends School of which Augustine Jones is the principal.

The editor of the *ADVOCATE* was privileged to attend both meetings and also a special meeting of the Rhode Island Peace Society held at the office of the Secretary, Robert P. Gifford. He also addressed a good congregation Sunday evening, Dec. 8, at the North Providence Congregational church, Rev. P. S. Hulbert, pastor. The entire visit to Providence was interesting and plans were suggested for future work. I was indebted to B. F. Knowles, Augustine Jones, Samuel Austin, Rev. P. S. Hulbert and others for kindly courtesies.